

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: SB 530

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support

**TITLE: Task Force to Study Required Deposits on
Returnable Beverage Containers**

BILL ANALYSIS:

The bill establishes a task force to study required deposits on returnable beverage containers, including costs, benefits, and feasibility, other states' laws, impacts on local governments and retailers, and effects on litter control and recycling. It would consist of: three members of the Senate; three members of the House of Delegates, and three county or municipal officials who have experience handling recyclable materials. The Department and the Department of Legislative Services would jointly staff the task force. The Task Force would be required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2009.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Department supports Senate Bill 530. Beverage container bills, or "bottle bills," have been introduced numerous times in Maryland in the past 35 years, each time without passage. Many states are seeking ways to increase their recycling rates in order to decrease the use of virgin materials in product manufacturing and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with manufacturing. Beverage containers only make up about 5 percent (5%) of the municipal solid waste stream by weight. Increasing the recycling of beverage containers would put more materials that can be reused for the manufacture of new products into the marketplace.

Studying the feasibility and implications of a beverage container bill in Maryland would provide needed information to the State and local governments. This Task Force could provide the forum for the State and local governments to gain an understanding of all factors involved in the recycling of beverage containers and the potential consequences of a bottle bill in Maryland.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT LISA NISSLEY
410-260-6301 ANNAPOLIS
410-537-3812 BALTIMORE